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be mentioned, that some time after the appointment of a committee for forwarding the abolition of the Slave-trade, a resolution was made, that Granville Sharp, Esq. be appointed chairman. This appointment, though now first formally made in the minute-book, was always understood to have taken place; but the modesty of Mr. Sharp was such, that, though repeatedly pressed, he would never consent to take the chair, and he generally refrained from coming into the room, till after he knew it to be taken. Nor could he be prevailed upon, even after this resolution, to alter his conduct: for though

he continued to sign the papers, which were handed to him by virtue of holding this office, he never was once seated as the chairman during the twenty years in which he attended at these meetings. Conscious, that he engaged in the cause of his fellow creatures, solely upon the sense of his duty as a Christian, he seems to have supposed, either that he had done nothing extraordinary to merit a distinction, or to have been fearful, lest the acceptance of it should bring a stain upon the motive, on which alone he undertook it.

DETACHED ANECDOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

NONCHALANCE OF POLISHED SOCIETY.

WHEN Madame de Deffant was dying, three of her dearest friends used to come and play cards by the side of her couch; and as she unpolitely died in the middle of a very interesting game, they quietly played it out, and settled their accounts before leaving the apartment. Such is the friendship of persons who live in what is called polished society. Indeed the passion for cards, and the many frivolous amusements which are supposed essentially necessary to the happiness even of persons whose intellectual endowments are above mediocrity, tends to absorb the finer feelings implanted in the human mind, and to prevent the smallest approach to rationality.

G.F.

CHOICE OF A WIFE.

So common was the desire to have a *quiet humble fool* for a wife, that a learned Doctor of the law, in Scotland, who had studied books more

than the human heart, imagined that he wanted a wife; but then he must have one that would not talk much. Accordingly he looked out for a stupid and ignorant woman, because he had laid it down as an incontrovertible maxim, that a sensible, well-informed woman would necessarily talk him to death. Having examined, for some time, his various female acquaintance, he at length selected, as the object of his choice, a girl who was seldom or never heard to utter a syllable, but who sat in solemn and gloomy silence during the whole time that her mother and sisters were talking away with all their might. The learned Doctor, however, had been married only a few days, when he went, with a doleful face, to complain to his bride's mother, that her daughter's tongue was never at rest, and begged earnestly to know what could be done: for he was prevented from studying, and from thinking. The mother, who was a prudent woman, replied, "Depend up-

on it, Sir, a foolish and an ignorant woman is never quiet, if she can help it; and if she knows nothing she must talk nonsense: and this is so obvious to the plainest understanding, that I wonder *learned men* have never yet found it out. Women, in proportion as their minds are cultivated, have resources in themselves, and can be silent when silence is necessary; but when a woman is ignorant, she must always be talking. Had you not chosen the weakest and silliest of all my daughters for a wife; one who, when she spoke, showed so much dullness and ignorance, that we gave her a strict charge to be silent until she was married, or she would never get a husband; but had you told me you wanted a *companion* for life, I would have chosen you one of my daughters, who would have rendered you respectable and happy, because she has sense."

G.F.

OBSERVATIONS ON A SINGULAR PHENOMENON CALLED THE SPECTRE OF THE BROKEN. BY J. L. JORDAN. FROM GOTTINGISCHES JOURNAL DER NATURWISSENSCHAFTEN, BY J. F. GMELIN.

In the course of my repeated tours through the Harz*, I ascended the Broken twelve different times; but I had the good fortune only twice (both times about whitsuntide) to see that atmospheric phenomenon called the Spectre of the Broken, which appears to me worthy of particular attention, as it must, no doubt, be observed on other high mountains which have a situation favourable for producing it.

The first time I was deceived by this extraordinary phenomenon, I had clambered up to the summit of

the Broken, very early in the morning, in order to wait there for the inexpressibly beautiful view of the rising sun in the east. The heavens were already streaked with red; the sun was just appearing above the horizon in full majesty, and the most perfect serenity prevailed throughout the surrounding country, when the other Harz mountains in the south-west, towards the Worm mountains, &c. lying under the Broken, began to be covered by thick clouds. Ascending at that moment the granite rocks called Teufelskanzel, there appeared before me, though at a great distance, towards the Worm mountains and the Achtermannshöhe, the gigantic figure of a man, as if standing on a large pedestal. But scarcely had I discovered it when it began to disappear; the clouds sunk down speedily and expanded, and I saw the phenomenon no more.

The second time, however, I saw this spectre somewhat more distinctly, a little below the summit of the Broken, and near the Heinrichshöhe, as I was looking at the sun rising about four o'clock in the morning; the sky towards the level country was pretty clear, but the Harz mountains had attracted several thick clouds, which had been hovering around them, and which beginning to settle on the Broken, confined the prospect. In these clouds, soon after the rising of the sun, I saw my own shadow, of monstrous size, move itself for a couple of seconds exactly as I moved; but I was soon involved in clouds and the phenomenon disappeared.

It is impossible to see this phenomenon, except when the sun is at such an altitude as to throw his rays upon the body in a horizontal direction; for, if he is higher, the shadow is thrown rather under the body than before it.

* The Harz mountains are in Hanover.

In the month of September last year, as I was making a tour through the Harz with a very agreeable party, and ascended the Broken, I found an excellent account and explanation of this phenomenon, as seen by Mr. Haue on the 23d of May, 1797, in his diary of an excursion to that mountain. I shall therefore take the liberty of transcribing it. "After having been here for the thirtieth time," says M. Haue, "and, besides other objects of my attention, having procured information respecting the above-mentioned atmospheric phenomenon, I was at length so fortunate as to have the pleasure of seeing it; and perhaps my description may afford satisfaction to others who visit the Broken through curiosity. The sun rose about four o'clock, and, the atmosphere being quite serene towards the east, his rays could pass without any obstruction over the Heinrichshöhe, a brisk west wind carried before it thin transparent vapours, which were not yet condensed into thick heavy clouds.

"About a quarter past four I went towards the inn, and looked around to see whether the atmosphere would permit me to have a free prospect to the south-west; when I observed, at a very great distance towards Achtermannshöhe, a human figure of monstrous size. A violent gust of wind having almost carried away my hat, I clapped my hand to it by moving my arm towards my head, and the colossal figure did the same.

"The pleasure which I felt on this discovery can hardly be described; for I had already walked many a weary step in the hopes of seeing this shadowy image, without being able to gratify my curiosity. I immediately made another movement by bending my body, and the colossal figure before me repeated it. I was desirous of doing the same

thing once more, but my colossus vanished. I remained in the same position, waiting to see whether it would return, and in a few minutes it again made its appearance on the Achtermannshöhe. I paid my respects to it a second time, and it did the same to me. I then called the landlord of the Broken; and having both taken the same position which I had taken alone, we looked towards the Achtermannshöhe, but saw nothing. We had not, however, stood long, when two such colossal figures were formed over the above eminence, which repeated our compliments by bending their bodies as we did; after which they vanished. We retained our position; kept our eyes fixed on the same spot, and in a little the two figures again stood before us, and were joined by a third. Every movement that we made by bending our bodies these figures imitated, but with this difference, that the phenomenon was sometimes weak and faint, sometimes strong and well defined. Having thus had an opportunity of discovering the whole secret of this phenomenon, I can give the following information to such of my readers as may be desirous of seeing it themselves. When the rising sun, and according to analogy the case will be the same at the setting sun, throws his rays over the Broken upon the body of a man standing opposite to fine light clouds floating around or hovering past him, he needs only fix his eyes stedfastly upon them, and, in all probability, he will see the singular spectacle of his own shadow extending to the length of five or six hundred feet, at the distance of about two miles before him. This is one of the most agreeable phenomena I ever had an opportunity of remarking on the great observatory of Germany."

Philosophical Mag. Vol. I.